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*noun* a mark of social disgrace and shame

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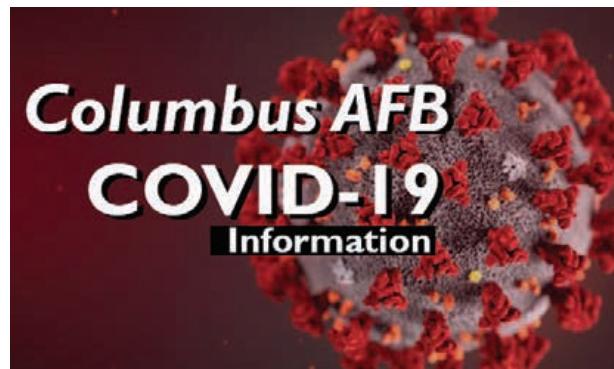
# SILVER WINGS

"Train World Class Pilots"

Vol. 46, Issue 5

Columbus Air Force Base, Miss.

March 4, 2022



## COVID-19 General Info

The base is continually focusing to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus and will persistently prioritize the safety of the Airmen, families and communities of Columbus.

Off-limit areas include any business or establishment that does not comply with Federal, State, and local COVID requirements. See Pg. 2 for more COVID-19 info.

### Social Gathering Limitations

- Kaye – 92 person limit
- Event Center/Club – 145 person limit
- Phillips Auditorium – 22 person limit
- Walker Center – 112 person limit



U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jessica Haynie

The 14th Flying Training Wing, participated in Joint Base Charleston's "Accelerating the Legacy", Black History Month Aviation Heritage event, Feb. 18-19, 2022. CAFB also participated in the military aircraft display with a T-1 Jayhawk, T-6 Texan, and T-38 Talon as part of the Legacy Flight Academy's 'Eyes above the Horizon' youth outreach program.

## Accelerating the Legacy 2022

**Airman 1st Class Jessica Haynie**  
14th Flying Training Wing Public Affairs

The 14th Flying Training Wing, participated in the Joint Base Charleston "Accelerating the Legacy", Black History Month Aviation Heritage event that partnered with Legacy Flight Academy, Feb. 18-19, 2022.

The purpose of the event was to honor the past, develop the present, and promote the future, with a vision to bridge the mentorship gap among minority Airmen. Participants met

and spoke with Dr. Eugene Richardson, one of the last living original Tuskegee Airmen. Richardson commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Corps and earned his pilot's wings March 11, 1945.

"As a colored man I felt like this was great for a sense of inclusion," said Airman 1st Class Marcus Santos, 14th Operational Medical Readiness Squadron Public Health technician, who is currently planning to transition into an aviation career.

See LEGACY, Page 3

CHECK OUT COLUMBUS AFB ON SOCIAL MEDIA



Columbus AFB YouTube page



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Columbus AFB Facebook page



[www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil)





# Air Force medics continue deployments to civilian hospitals and care facilities

**Shireen Bedi**  
Air Force Surgeon General  
Public Affairs

FALLS CHURCH, Va. — While the nation is seeing a decline in COVID-19 cases, hospitals and other facilities across the country are still reeling.

At the request of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, nearly 1,000 U.S. Air Force active duty, Reserve, and Air National Guard medics are serving in civilian hospitals, care facilities, and other public institutions. The Air Force Medical Service has continued to step up as part of the federal COVID-19 response, working alongside other military departments and federal agencies.

The Air Force has upwards of 24 active duty and Reserve teams currently deployed across the country, made up of pulmonologists, trauma nurses, respiratory therapist and medical technicians. Civilian medical facilities and other institutions in 34 states are also receiving support from ANG medics.

“As military medics, it is our duty to go where our nation calls us, and that means continuing our COVID-19 mission,” said Air Force Surgeon General Lt. Gen. Robert Miller. “We ask a lot of our medics, who have played an integral role in the joint fight against COVID-19, working across federal agencies, military departments and the entire health care system.”

One of the recent deployments included the Cleveland Clinic, in Ohio, a premier medical center that both Ohioans and the nation relies on for elite specialty medical care. Like other hospitals, COVID-19 surges have impacted the Cleveland Clinic staff.

“A lot of their staff have been stretched very thin taking care of these very sick COVID patients and it has also effected their ability to do their normal mission to take in transfers and specialty care from around Ohio,” said Maj. Peter Johnson,

internal medicine physician assigned to Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. “We are here in a variety of ways, as physicians, as nurses, and respiratory therapists.”

From JB Andrews, the Air Force sent a team of 20 medics to Cleveland in January to provide hospital augmentation support in the intensive care unit, emergency room and medical-surgical areas. Additionally, a 20-person team has been sent to Oklahoma and another 10-person team has been sent to Louisiana.

Joining the team from JB Andrews, Joint Base Langley-Eustis also sent a 10 medical personnel team to Louisiana.

From JB San Antonio-Lackland, three 20-person teams have been deployed to Pennsylvania, Maine and Connecticut.

Keesler Air Force Base has sent two teams, including a 15-person team to Pennsylvania, and a 20-person team to New York.

“We, in Air Education and Training Command, are extremely proud of the numerous teams of medics from all of our bases who have deployed forward conducting COVID-19 support operations in a variety of hospitals and areas throughout the country,” said Col. Michael J. Higgins, AETC command surgeon. “Taking care of our own people in this way is a sacred and honorable calling. Our lead medical centers from the 59th Medical Wing at JB San Antonio and the 81st Medical Group at Keesler AFB (Mississippi) shoulder an incredible responsibility. Our smaller medical groups volunteered their precious staff to augment these teams as well, a testament to their professionalism and sense of duty.”

Three medical teams from Nellis AFB, Nevada have been deployed to New Hampshire, Connecticut and New York. The two 20-person teams deployed to New York are specifically providing support to the University of Rochester Medicine’s Strong Memorial Hospital where they have received training on the hospital’s systems and procedures and will integrate into the staff.

“Our team is excited to be here and help out during this time of need,” said Lt. Col. Allan Delgado, a Family and Aerospace Medicine nurse practitioner with the 99th Medical Group, Nellis AFB. “We’re proud and grateful to support FEMA and the great state of New York, serving alongside those who we swore to protect.”

Travis AFB, California deployed two 20-person teams, one to Connecticut and another to Louisiana. A 15-person team was also sent to California, specifically supporting the Emanate Health Queen of the Valley Hospital in West Covina.

“The hospital itself has been very welcoming and making the process very easy for us,” said 1st Lt. Katelyn Warren, 60th Medical Group physician assistant at Travis AFB. “So, our nurses, for example, are working with other nurses. They’re working the same schedules and they’re doing the same exact things that not only we’ve been trained to do, but also what is asked of them and needed here to help alleviate the strain that the hospital’s under.”

From Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio, a 15-person team has been sent to Maine, a 20-person team to Oklahoma, and another 20-person team to Massachusetts.

“Our Airmen are always proud to serve, but there is something even more special to our team members in providing care to our nation’s citizens alongside our civilian medical partners,” said Col. Christian Lyons, 88th Medical Group commander, Wright-Patterson AFB. “Nothing is more inspiring than the military-civilian partnership being demonstrated right now to save lives.”

Eglin AFB, Florida has deployed a 20-person team to Maine, a 15-person team to Arizona and a 20-person team to Massachusetts.

“I am so proud of our Air Combat Command medics who demonstrate excellence daily by simultaneously providing COVID staffing relief to numerous civilian hospitals and care facilities.”

## Silver Wings

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## Submission Deadline

The deadline for submitting copy for next week’s SILVER WINGS is noon Monday. Articles may be dropped off at the public affairs office or e-mailed.

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*Submit all advertising to the Columbus, Miss., Commercial Dispatch advertising department one week prior to desired publication date. The advertising department can be reached at (662) 328-2424.*

## FSS

(Continued from page 10)

### Selfie Photo Booth at the Bowling Center

The Bowling Center has a new selfie photo booth set up! Take photos with your crew during Bowling hours, post them on Facebook, and tag @ColumbusAFBBowlingCenter to be entered into a monthly raffle. There will be a winner each month, and each winner will get a special prize! Call (662) 434-3426 for more information.

### St. Patty’s Pins & Pints

Join the Bowling Center on March 17 from 3-7 p.m. for a special, St. Patty’s Day themed Pins & Pints. Pay \$1 per game, shoe rentals not included. Get a strike with a green head pin to win a prize! Multiple prizes ranging from \$50-\$100 in value will be available. Draft and bottled beer will be available for purchase. There will also be St. Patty’s themed music and cosmic lights. Call (662) 434-3426 for more information.

### Information, Tickets & Travel (ITT)

Local ITT Customer Service will be temporarily handle by Keesler AFB. Please call Holly or Trish at (228) 377-3818 Tuesday-Friday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Local Shuttle Service will be handled by ODR on Monday, Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m.-1 p.m. This includes shuttle service to the airport of your choice. Stop by ODR or call (662) 434-2505 for more information.

### Assignment Night Transportation

Book Assignment Night transportation with ITT! Reserve the bus, the van or both! The cost is only \$30 per hour for Columbus and local areas; a \$30 deposit is required and applied to the total cost of reservation. Reservation must be a minimum of four hours and reserved in person. For more information, contact (662) 434-7861.

### Exclusive Military Vacation Packages

Did you know that you can book exclusive military vacation packages at ITT and save up to 60%? American Forces Travel is now serving AFP and NAF civilians. Packages include Universal Studios and Disney destinations. To book your vacation at [www.americaforcestravel.com](http://www.americaforcestravel.com)

### FSS Gift Cards

Make your shopping easier! Purchase or redeem your

FSS Gift Card at the following locations: Arts and Crafts, Bowling Center, Child Development Center, Columbus Club, Information Tickets and Travel, Outdoor Recreation or the Youth Center. For more information, stop by any of these locations.

### Horse Boarding Available

The CAFB Riding Stables usually has stall space available. For pricing and more information, contact Outdoor Recreation at (662) 434-2505.

### Free Mango Languages

Learn a new language today! Free Mango Languages available at the Base Library; real-life conversations in over 70 languages. For more information, contact (662) 434-2934.

### Lawn Mower and Bicycle Repair

Outdoor Recreation is now offering lawn mower repair and a self-help bicycle repair station that patrons can use for free. For more information, contact (662) 434-2507.

### Hobby and Craft Instructors Needed

Do you have a hobby or craft project you can share with others? Arts & Crafts is looking for craft instructors. For more information, contact (662) 434-7836.

### Referees Needed

Referees needed for various sports at the Fitness Center. For more information or to sign up, contact (662) 434-2772.

### RV Storage Lot

Don’t clutter your home space, park with us. Outdoor Recreation offers a great place to store your RV year around. You will have 24-hour access and can pay monthly or yearly. For more information, call (662) 434-2505.

### Instructors Needed

The Youth Center is seeking instructors for tumbling classes, dance classes, piano and guitar lessons. For more information, contact the Youth Center.

### Space A Lodging

The Magnolia Inn usually has openings for Space A family and single units. Contact the lodging desk at (662) 434-2548. Guest Services staff is on duty from 6 a.m.–10 p.m. daily. For reservations 24/7, visit <https://af.dodlodging.net/property/Columbus-AFB>.

## COMMUNITY

(Continued from page 9)

### Survivor Benefit Plan

Are you nearing military retirement? The one decision you will need to make before you retire involves participation in the Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP). As with all good decision-making, you need to know the facts before you can make a sound decision. Always get the true facts about SBP before making up your mind. Additional details are available by calling your SBP Counselor Mary Chambers at (662) 434-2720/2790.

### Personal Financial Readiness

Need help with financial matters? Want to make the most of your money? The Personal Financial Counselor (PFC) can help you and your family: manage finances, resolve financial problems and reach long-term goals such as education, buying a home and planning for retirement. PFC services are at no cost, private and confidential. Please contact the PFC at (662) 998-0411.

### Key Spouse Program (KSP)

The mission of KSP is to provide information and resources to military spouses, supporting families in successfully navigating through the military life cycle. The KSP is a CC’s program. The CC establishes and maintains the program within the unit, to include choosing team members. Once selected as a KS in writing, you will need to attend initial/refresher KS training and continuing education. For more information, please call (662) 434-2839.

### Military and Family Life Counselor Program

Military and Family Life Counselors (MFLCs) provide non-medical counseling to help Airmen (single and married), spouses and other family members cope with stressful situations created by deployments, reintegration and life challenges such as martial issues, parenting, career stress and anger. All counselors are licensed mental health providers, and they can meet either on or off base. There is no charge for services, and appointments can usually be made within one to two days. To contact the MFLC, please call (662) 435-1110.

### Sponsorship Training

An electronic version of sponsorship training called eSponsorship Application & Training (eSAT) is the required training course to become a sponsor. It can be found in Military One Source’s MilLife Learning training Course Catalog at this link <https://millifelearning.militaryonesource.mil/MOS/?p=SIS:2:0>. More online resources are available on Columbus AFB Living at <https://www.columbusafbliving.com/airmen-family-readiness-center/relocaiton-assistance/electronic-sponsor-resources/>. For additional information, please contact the A&FRC Relocation Manager at (662) 434-2701/2790.

## COVID

(Continued from page 2)

tals across the United States,” said Brig. Gen. Robert Bogart, ACC command surgeon. “At the same time, they have also found innovative ways to generate ready medics for the future fight and deliver timely, high-quality medical care to our Airmen and their families.”

Air Force Reserve medical personnel are also currently deployed to New York, consisting of two 20-person teams.

“I am just honored to support the effort with the COVID-19 operation in the U.S. in a hospital

setting,” said Maj. Sanjiv M. Baxi, a physician activated from the 349th Medical Squadron at Travis AFB. “We are particularly trained to bring unique skill sets to help Americans on American soil, and it’s just a tremendous thing.”

These deployments in support of FEMA were approved by Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III Dec. 30, 2021.

“Air Force core values and our AFMS Trusted Care culture promotes competency and individual leadership within complex systems, which prepares our medics to enter an unfamiliar environment and

quickly provide valuable professional skills and leadership,” said Col. James Sampson, Air Force Surgeon General chief surgical consultant. “In the long term, I expect that for many individuals the experience of working alongside our civilian and joint partners across the U.S. will result in even greater commitment to service. The lessons learned from this will enable greater agility and greater capabilities to meet the challenges of tomorrow.”

ANG medical personnel are currently deployed to 34 states, totaling nearly 500 doctors, nurses and other medical specialties deployed to long-term care and nursing homes, mobile blood drives, and COVID-19 vaccine administration facilities. “This is a Total Force effort, and whether we are responding in our state or across the nation, we are wearing Air Force blue, and our participation in these missions assists the goals of the chief of staff of the Air Force and the Department of Defense,” said Maj. Gen. Brett A. Wyrick, ANG assistant to the Surgeon General. “Our participation assures the people of America that we are always ready and always there in time of need.”

While these are temporary deployments, there is also an impact to some military treatment facilities. As Air Force medics deploy, staff at military treatment facilities are working to ensure patients continue getting the care they need.

“The nation has leaned on our medics for the last two years and I cannot express my gratitude enough for their incredible dedication,” said Chief Master Sgt. Dawn Kolczynski, Medical Enlisted Force chief and Enlisted Corps chief. “Each time we ask you to respond to our nation’s need, you have stepped up with integrity and excellence in all you do.”



**Columbus Air Force Base Information and Events**  
Join our Facebook page at Columbus AFB Living, Instagram at columbus\_afb\_living, or visit our website at ColumbusAFBliving.com to keep up to date with all the great events happening around base. Check out the calendar on the website for important Airman and Family Readiness Center events. For more information, contact (662) 434-2337.

**Get Connected with Your Base App!**  
As a way to connect people together, Columbus Air Force Base launched a new app to connect Airmen and families to the mission and community! The app is available on all app stores and can be found by searching ‘Columbus Air Force Base’.

**The Print Shop**  
The Print Shop is located in The Commons, building 715, room 128. It is in the back of the Commons and can be accessed either from the main entrance or from the parking lot directly behind the base Chapel. Services include large format printing, mounting, laminating, color and black/white copying, binding, and much more. For a quote call (662) 434-2337 or email 14FSS-Columbus@gmail.com.

**Youth Program's After School Care**  
The Youth Center offers After School Care for ages 5-12. The center provides games, sports, arts & crafts, educational enrichment, social skills, leadership building and much more. Request care at MilitaryChildCare.com or call (662) 434-2504 for more information.

**Super Hero Training: Homeschool Fitness Program**  
Homeschooled children ages 7-12 are invited to come and train to be a super hero with Columbus AFB's very own Health Promotions Coordinator, Marios Potamitis, on March 22 from 2-3 p.m. in the Youth Center Gym! Call (662) 434-2792 for more information.

**Spring Break Camp at the Youth Center**  
The Youth Center will be providing care during Spring Break, March 14-18, from 7 a.m.-6 p.m. daily. Parents must request care at MilitaryChildCare.com. Call (662) 434-2504 for more information.

**Library**  
The Library, located in The Blaze Commons, is open for in-house customers Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and closed Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. For everyone's safety, masks are required for patrons ages 3 and up and parents must remain with their children at all times.  
The Library is hosting Storytime at your library every Tuesday at 10 a.m. Meet in the Blaze Commons open area for a story read by your favorite Librarians! March 8th is International Women's Day, and T-6A Instructor Pilot Capt. Nichole “STORM” Evans will lead Storytime.

**March Activities**  
Your Library has several activities for patrons to participate in during the month of March! March is National Reading Month, so help the Library reach their reading goal of 300 books. Check the book-o-meter in the Library to see their progress throughout the month. On March 17, post a photo collage on the Library's Facebook page of all the books you've read with a green cover or with “green” in the title for the Green Book Challenge. March 21 is World Poetry Day, so post your original poetry or your favorite poet's work on Facebook and tag the Library. You are also welcome to post a video. On March 23, post a picture of yourself with your puppy on Facebook for National Puppy Day and tag the Library. National Crayon Day is March 31, so stop by the Library

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and guess how many crayons are in the jar or create a work of art with crayons.  
See all of the Library's activities visit their Facebook page: @ColumbusAirForceBaseLibrary.

**Fitness Center**  
The Columbus AFB Fitness Center and the Alpha Warrior tent is open Monday-Friday 5 a.m.-9 p.m. and on Saturday 8 a.m.-6 p.m. It is open on Sunday for 24/7 Access members only (CAC must be registered at the front desk prior to use).  
The Fitness Center is now serving all DoD cardholders and eligible contractors during normal hours of operation.  
24/7 access is available to not only Active Duty patrons, but also any DoD cardholder such as dependents, retirees, and civilian employees. CAC must be registered at the front desk.  
Also, the locker rooms and showers are once again available.  
Please note there will 100% ID card check, limited rental equipment available, and other risk mitigation plans still apply. For more information, call the Fitness Center at (662) 434-2772.  
Also, the basketball and racquetball courts are now available! Check-in at the front desk required.

**Intramural Volleyball**  
Put a team together within your squadron or unit for Intramural Volleyball and sign up at the Fitness Center by March 9! There will be a Coaches Meeting at the Fitness Center on March 9 at 2:30 p.m. Please sign up prior to the Coaches Meeting. The season will begin on March 21st at 6 p.m. Call (662) 434-2772 for more information.

**Lucky Charm 5K**  
Join the Fitness Center for the Lucky Charm 5K on March 18 at 7 a.m.! Call (662) 434-2772 for more information.

**Arts & Crafts**  
Arts & Crafts is ready to serve your framing, engraving, and

wood working needs, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Call (662) 434-7856 for assistance.

**Air Force Art Contest**  
The Annual Air Force Art Contest will be open for 2D artwork submissions March 1-31! There are 5 different age categories, and 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each category will win a monetary prize! For official rules and to submit your art, visit ColumbusAFBLiving.com/ArtContest. Call Arts & Crafts at (662) 434-7856 for more information.

**Auto Hobby Shop**  
The Auto Hobby Shop located by Arts & Crafts is open on Fridays, 4-8 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Lifts are \$10 per hour of use, and bays are \$5 per hour of use. Cash only. Auto Hobby is now offering free fluid level check, free tire pressure check and fill, and used oil collection. Auto Hobby will have a special promotion during the month of March: rent any bay for 2 hours and the 3rd consecutive hour of use is free! Call (662) 434-7836 for more information.

**Outdoor Recreation**  
Outdoor Recreation's (ODR) hours are Monday, Thursday, and Friday,. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (closed Tuesday, Wednesday, and Sunday). ODR offers all sorts of rental for the water, camping, and much more! Call ODR at (662) 434-2505 for all of your outdoor activities.

**Coffee House on 5th**  
Coffee House on 5th, located in the Blaze Commons, is back open to 50% capacity inside. Drive through or come in to enjoy a cup of coffee or a tasty treat. Their hours are Monday-Friday, 6 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 8 a.m.- noon. Call for more information at (662) 434-2233.

**Bowling Center**  
Until further notice, the Bowling Center will be closed during breakfast and lunch due to staffing constraints. Bowling lanes will be open, Wednesday-Friday from 3-7 p.m.  
Walk-ins are welcome. To make a reservation, call (662) 434-3426, or reserve on the Bowling Center's Facebook page, @ColumbusAFBBowlingCenter.

**Boss & Buddy & Bowling**  
On Wednesdays during Boss & Buddy, the Bowling Center will have a Pizza and Bowling Special. Pay \$25 for a lane (up to 5 people per lane) and get 1 hour of unlimited bowling games, shoe rentals, and 1 large pizza of your choice (cheese, pepperoni, or sausage from Lost Pizza Co.). Patrons must reserve on the Bowling Center's Facebook page NLT 12:00 p.m. on the previous Tuesday with their choice of pizza. Also on Wednesdays, there will be a Walk-In Special. Pay \$10 for a lane (up to 5 people per lane) and get 1 hour of unlimited bowling games, shoe rentals not included. Beer and signature mixed drinks will be available for purchase. Call (662) 434-3426 for more information.

**Pins & Pints**  
Pins & Pints will be on Thursdays from 3-7 p.m. Pay \$1 per game, shoe rentals not included. Draft and bottled beer will be available for purchase. Call (662) 434-3426 for more information.

**Family Cosmic Unlimited Bowling**  
Family Cosmic Unlimited Bowling will be on Fridays from 5-7 p.m. Pay \$20 per lane (up to 5 people per lane) and get 2 hours of unlimited bowling, shoe rentals included. This will be a family friendly atmosphere with cosmic lights and music videos. Call (662) 434-3426 for more information.

See FSS, Page 11



U.S Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jessica Haynie

**Students from surrounding schools, tour aircraft the second day of the “Accelerating the Legacy” event, Feb. 19, 2022, on Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina. JBC partnered with Legacy Flight Academy who held the Eyes above the Horizon STEM exposition.**

## LEGACY

(Continued from page 1)

“Being able to see people that look like me, holding very prominent positions and being respected, really opened my eyes with me pursuing a career in aviation.”

The first day comprised of officer and enlisted aviation professional development briefings. Officer and enlisted groups listened to a panel of commanders and senior enlisted leaders who shared their knowledge and experience. Both groups of Airmen had an opportunity to ask questions about career development and diversity during their military careers.

“I enjoy any opportunity to mentor the next generation and current rising stars in the Air Force. The ability to network at events like these is important for mentoring and establishing relationships to promote change,” said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Aaron Jones, 49th Flying Training Squadron commander. “Being a part of the panel allows me to share my thoughts and ideas on how we

can improve one another and in-turn make the Air Force even greater.”

CAFB also participated in the military aircraft display with a T-1 Jayhawk, T-6 Texan, and T-38 Talon as part of the Legacy Flight Academy's ‘Eyes above the Horizon’ youth outreach program. 175 students from local schools in attendance were able to tour the aircraft and ask multiple aviation questions to a panel of U.S. Air Force pilots from a wide range of aircraft.

“The added public outreach event for the youth of the community is to expose the next generation to aviation. Some of the kids have never engaged in a first-hand experience with aviation the way they did this weekend, and truth be told, some of them have never experienced aviation with a pilot who looked like them or shared a similar background,” said Jones. “If we are genuinely concerned with bridging the gap on diversity, then I believe it is imperative that we continue to show case the Air Force's diverse talent across the nation.”



U.S Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Jessica Haynie

**U.S. Air Force Lt. Col Aaron Jones, 49th Flying Training Squadron commander, speaks during an Officer Aviation Professional Development panel, Feb. 18, 2022, on Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina. Jones, along with other commanders, shared their career experiences and answered questions from curious attendees.**





U.S. Air Force graphic by Rosario "Charo" Gutierrez

Retired Col. Gail Halvorsen, also known as the “Candy Bomber,” passed away Feb. 16, 2022. He was 101 years old. Starting his career in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942, Halvorsen served as a pilot until his retirement in 1974, after accumulating more than 8,000 flying hours and 31 years of military service. Halvorsen went down in history for his selfless acts during the Berlin Airlift in 1948 and 1949 by attaching handkerchief parachutes to chocolate bars and dropping them from his aircraft to the children below.

# ‘Candy Bomber’ passes away at 101

Secretary of the Air Force Public Affairs

ARLINGTON, Va. — Retired Col. Gail Halvorsen, also known as the “Candy Bomber,” passed away Feb. 16. He was 101 years old.

Starting his career in the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942, Halvorsen served as a pilot until his retirement in 1974, after accumulating more than 8,000 flying hours and 31 years of military service.

“Colonel Halvorsen was an American hero,” said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. CQ Brown, Jr. “He made such a positive impact on this world and will be remembered for his kindness and bringing joy to those who desperately needed it. His selfless dedication and willingness to help those in need embody the core values of the Air Force, and his legacy will live on in the ethos and values of the greatest Air Force in the world.”

Halvorsen went down in history for his selfless acts during the Berlin Airlift in 1948 and 1949. Then-Lt. Halvorsen took it upon himself to help boost the morale of the children in West Berlin by attaching handkerchief parachutes to chocolate bars and dropping them from his aircraft to the children below.

He would also rock the wings of his aircraft as he came in to notify the children of which plane was carrying the chocolate.

The German children began calling him “Uncle Wiggly Wings.”

Soon, Halvorsen’s idea was expanded into “Operation Little Vittles,” which garnered public support and donations. By the end of the airlift, 25 plane crews had dropped 23 tons of chocolate, chewing gum and other candies over Berlin.

Halvorsen’s efforts stand as a symbol of the impact one small gesture can have on an entire community.

“As I look back at Operation Little Vittles and the years that have followed, there is one human characteristic above all others that gave it birth – the silent gratitude of the children at a barbed wire fence in Berlin, July 1948,” he wrote in his autobiography.

The Berlin Airlift is arguably the mission that put heavies on the map. It was the first major victory over the Soviet Union in the Cold War, and it was a tremendous success for the then-new U. S. Air Force.

In 1994 after retiring, Halvorsen requested to assist in the delivery of food to refugees fleeing from the conflict in Bosnia.

“We have our freedom to choose, and when the freedom is taken away, air power is the only quick way to answer a crisis like that,” he recalled during an interview with Airman Magazine.

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- A-10 Demo Team • Wings of Blue•
- C-17 Demo Team • Rob Holland• and much more!

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Columbus AFB, Mississippi

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Commander's Action Line

662-434-1414

In an effort to stay Connected, the Commander's Action Line is your direct link to the commander for comments and suggestions on how to make Columbus AFB better.

Although the Commander's Action Line is always available, the best way to resolve problems is through the chain-of-command. The Commander's Action Line can be reached at 434-1414. Leave your name and phone number or email if you would like to receive an answer. All names will be kept confidential.

If you would like to remain anonymous, please submit your inquiries through our base application in the ‘Our Wing’ then ‘Contact the CC’ tab or you can submit through the webpage at [www.columbus.af.mil](http://www.columbus.af.mil). Click “Contact Us” at the top left of the page and select “Commander's Action Line” in the Recipient drop down menu.

Air Force Readiness Programs

(Editor's note: All activities are offered at the Airman & Family Readiness Center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call 434-2790.)

Hearts Apart

The next Hearts Apart will be Mar. 4, 5-7 p.m. This monthly social event is for family members whose sponsor is deployed, on a remote tour or TDY for more than 30 days. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

Transition Assistance Program Workshop

The next Transition Assistance Program (TAP) workshop is from 7:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Mar. 7-11 and includes seminars on: Transition, Military Occupational Code Crosswalk, Financial Planning, Health Benefits, Mississippi Department of Employment Security, Department of Veterans Affairs, Disabled TAP and Department of Labor. Preseparation counseling is required before attending, and recommended attendance is 12-24 months prior to separation/retirement. Spouses are encouraged to attend with their sponsor. To register or for more information, please call the TAP Manager at (662) 434-2631/2790.

Wing Newcomers Orientation

The next Wing Newcomers Orientation will be held on Mar. 15 from 8 a.m.-3:45 p.m. It begins at the Columbus Club and ends with a base tour. This event is mandatory for all newly arrived military and DoD civilian personnel. The event's foundation is the base's mobile App, so if you are registered, please locate and download the Columbus Air Force Base App from the App Store prior to attending. Pre-registration is required, so contact your unit CSS to be registered. For more information, please call the A&FRC Relocation Manager at (662) 434-2701/2790.

Smooth Move Relocation Workshop

The next Smooth Move is from 10-11 a.m. Mar. 17 in the A&FRC. This workshop is highly recommended for first-time and over-seas relocating members. Get the very latest moving information straight from base-wide relocation assistance agencies. Learn what to expect before you move with information from Tri-Care, Housing, Military Pay, TMO, Medical Records and A&FRC. Be sure to ask any relocating questions you may have during this event. Pre-registration is required, so call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790 to register or for more information.

Department of Labor Transition Vocational Track Workshop

The next DoL Transition Vocational Track Workshop is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Mar. 21-22 and will be held in the A&FRC. This workshop helps members identify skills, increase awareness of training and credentialing programs, and develop an action plan to achieve career goals.

4 Lenses Training Course

U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Davis Donaldson

Columbus Air Force Base airmen attend a Four Lenses training course on Feb. 23, 2022, at Columbus AFB, Miss. According to [fourlenses.com](http://fourlenses.com), the Four Lenses foundational training helps individuals and organizations establish a common language and value system for diverse perspectives and unique talent in the workplace, in the classroom, or simply in life.

To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

Bundles for Babies

The next Bundles for Babies workshop is from 1-3:30 p.m. Mar. 29. This program is designed for active duty AF members and/or their spouses who are pregnant or have a child 4 months old or less. Attendees will learn about finances, labor and delivery, and infant care. A \$50 gift card sponsored by the Air Force Aid Society will be provided for each qualifying child. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

Heart Link

The next Heart Link / Spouse Welcome is from 8:30 a.m.-noon Apr. 28. This half-day program is open to all spouses of active duty military members assigned to Columbus AFB. Attendees will receive information about life in the Air Force, in the local area and at Columbus AFB from local subject matter experts including spouse leaders. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

Federal USA Jobs Workshop

The next Federal USA Jobs workshop is from 9-10:30 a.m. May 11. This is a workshop on writing resumes, applications, and job search using the USAJobs website. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

Entrepreneurship Track Transition Workshop

The next Entrepreneurship Track Transition

workshop will be held June 9-10 from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. This workshop is conducted by the Small Business Administration for veterans and all base personnel interested starting up and operating their own business. To register or for more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

EFMP-FS

Exceptional Family Members Program-Family Support, EFMP-FS, establishes, implements and maintains the FS (community support) entity of the Air Force EFMP in coordination with the Medical & Assignments components by enhancing the quality of life of special needs family members. Feel free to contact (662) 434-3323/2790 for any questions related to EFMP or for one-on-one assistance. We can assess your needs and make the proper community referral for you and your family!

Volunteer Opportunities

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the A&FRC. We have volunteer opportunities located across the base for one-time events, special events or on a continual basis. Volunteers are needed on base at the Youth Center, Child Development Center, Library, Medical Clinic, Chapel, Airman's Attic, Thrift Store, the Retiree Activities Office and many other locations. For more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

Installation Voting Assistance Office

A&FRC houses the Voting Assistance Office (VAO) which is open Monday-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and closed weekends/holidays. The VAO offers voting assistance including voter

registration, absentee ballot requests and voting, change of address, and provides answers for other general voting questions to uniformed service members, their family members and civilians with access to A&FRC. Assistance includes but is not limited to aid in preparing and submitting Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) SF-76, Federal Write-in Absentee Ballot (FWAB) SF-186 and National Mail Voter Registration Form (NVRF). The VAO also leads and trains all installation unit voting assistance officers. For more information, please contact the Installation VAO at (662) 434-2701/2790 or e-mail: [vote.columbus@us.af.mil](mailto:vote.columbus@us.af.mil).

Discovery Resource Center

The Columbus A&FRC has computers with internet access available for job searches, assessments, resumes, cover letters, state and federal applications and companies' employment information. A printer and fax machine is available. A lending library of books, DVDs and periodicals on transition and EFMP topics are available for check out. These resources are available on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Pre- and Post-Deployment Tour Briefing

These briefings are mandatory for active duty personnel who are either deploying or returning from deployment or a remote tour. Please contact A&FRC at (662) 434-2794/2790 to schedule a briefing and/or for more information.

Pre-Separation Counseling

This counseling is a mandatory briefing for personnel separating or retiring, and is to be completed at least 90 days prior to separation. It may be completed up to 12 months prior to separation or 24 months prior to retirement. Please contact A&FRC at (662) 434-2790 to schedule a counseling session and/or for more information.

Employment Workshop

An employment workshop on local and base employment opportunities is held every Wednesday, 1-2 p.m. This program provides military families and DoD civilian members individual assessment and career counseling to assist with local employment, preparation for future endeavors via education, job search, or self-owned business objectives in the local area. For more information, please call A&FRC at (662) 434-2790.

Chapel Schedule

Chapel services are now available.

Catholic: 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sundays

Daily Mass: 11 a.m. Tuesday- Friday

Protestant: 9:30 a.m. on Sundays

As we gather for services there is a 50 person limit inside the chapel. Thank you all for your help during this time and we are looking forward to seeing you all soon!



# BLAZE Hangar Tails: E-3 Sentry (AWACS)

## Mission

The E-3 Sentry is an airborne warning and control system, or AWACS, aircraft with an integrated command and control battle management, or C2BM, surveillance, target detection, and tracking platform. The aircraft provides an accurate, real-time picture of the battlespace to the Joint Air Operations Center. AWACS provides situational awareness of friendly, neutral and hostile activity, command and control of an area of responsibility, battle management of theater forces, all-altitude and all-weather surveillance of the battle space, and early warning of enemy actions during joint, allied, and coalition operations.

## Features

As an air defense system, E-3s can detect, identify and track airborne enemy forces far from the boundaries of the United States or NATO countries. It can direct fighter-interceptor aircraft to these enemy targets. Experience has proven that the E-3 Sentry can respond quickly and effectively to a crisis and support worldwide military deployment operations. AWACS may be employed alone or horizontally integrated in combination with other C2BM and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance elements of the Theater Air Control System. It supports decentralized execution of the air tasking order/air combat order. The system provides the ability to find, fix, track and target airborne or maritime threats and to detect, locate and ID emitters. It has the ability to detect threats and control assets below and beyond the coverage of ground-based command and control or C2, and can exchange data with other C2 systems and shooters via datalinks.

With its mobility as an airborne warning and control sys-

tem, the Sentry has a greater chance of surviving in warfare than a fixed, ground-based radar system. Among other things, the Sentry's flight path can quickly be changed according to mission and survival requirements. The E-3 can fly a mission profile approximately 8 hours without refueling. Its range and on-station time can be increased through in-flight refueling and the use of an on-board crew rest area.

## Background

There are 31 aircraft in the U.S. inventory. Air Combat Command has 27 E-3s at Tinker. Pacific Air Forces has four E-3 Sentries at Kadena AB, Japan and Elmendorf AFB, Alaska.

As proven in operations Desert Storm, Allied Force, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom, and Odyssey Dawn/Unified Protector the E-3 Sentry is the world's premier C2BM aircraft. AWACS aircraft and crews were instrumental to the successful completion of operations Northern and Southern Watch, and are still engaged in operations Noble Eagle and Enduring Freedom. They provide radar surveillance and control in addition to providing senior leadership with time-critical information on the actions of enemy forces. The E-3 has also deployed to support humanitarian relief operations in the U.S. following Hurricanes Rita and Katrina, coordinating rescue efforts between military and civilian authorities.

The data collection capability of the E-3 radar and computer subsystems allowed an entire air war to be recorded for the first time in the history of aerial warfare.

In March 1996, the Air Force activated the 513th Air Control Group, an AWACS Reserve Associate Program unit which performs duties on active-duty aircraft.

During the spring of 1999, the first AWACS aircraft went

through the Radar System Improvement Program. RSIP is a joint U.S./NATO development program that involved a major hardware and software intensive modification to the existing radar system. Installation of RSIP enhanced the operational capability of the E-3 radar electronic counter-measures and has improved the system's reliability, maintainability and availability.

## General characteristics

**Primary function:** airborne battle management, command and control

**Contractor:** Boeing Aerospace Co.

**Power plant:** four Pratt and Whitney TF33-PW-100A turbofan engines

**Thrust:** 20,500 pounds each engine at sea level

**Rotodome:** 30 feet in diameter (9.1 meters), 6 feet thick (1.8 meters), mounted 11 feet (3.33 meters) above fuselage

**Wingspan:** 145 feet, 9 inches (44.4 meters)

**Length:** 152 feet, 11 inches (46.6 meters)

**Height:** 41 feet, 9 inches (13 meters)

**Weight:** 205,000 pounds (zero fuel) (92,986 kilograms) Maximum Takeoff Weight: 325,000 pounds (147,418 kilograms) Fuel Capacity: 21,000 gallons (79,494 liters)

**Speed:** optimum cruise 360 mph (Mach 0.48)

**Range:** more than 5,000 nautical miles (9,250 kilometers)

**Ceiling:** Above 29,000 feet (8,788 meters)

**Crew:** flight crew of four plus mission crew of 13-19 specialists (mission crew size varies according to mission)

**Unit Cost:** \$270 million (fiscal 98 constant dollars)

**Initial operating capability:** April 1978

**Inventory:** active force, 32 (one test); Reserve, 0; Guard, 0



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman John Linzmeier  
A 961st Airborne Air Control Squadron E-3 Sentry taxis down the runway during an elephant walk for a no-notice readiness exercise April 12, 2017, at Kadena Air Base, Japan. These training exercises ensure Airmen are ready to perform any operational task at a moment's notice. The 18th Wing and its associate units are responsible for providing forward power projection with integrated, deployable combat power, to maintain peace and stability as the Pacific theater's premier joint platform for threat deterrence.



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tyler Woodward  
380th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief Airman 1st Class Mitchell signals an E-3 Sentry before completing a sortie in support of Combined Joint Task Force-Operation Inherent Resolve at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia, Feb. 1, 2017.

# U.S. continues providing arms for Ukraine's defense against Russian aggression

David Vergun

DOD News

Ukrainian resistance to invading forces is stiffer than Russia expected, as the U.S. and NATO continue to supply security assistance to Ukraine, a senior defense official said.

"We continue to believe, based on what we've observed, that this resistance is greater than what the Russians expected. And we have indications that the Russians are increasingly frustrated by their lack of momentum over the last 24 hours, particularly in the north parts of Ukraine," that official said.

Ukrainian air defenses, including aircraft, continue to be operable and continue to engage and deny access to Russian aircraft in places over the country, the official said.

"As of this morning, we have no indication that the Russian military has taken control over any cities, and we still believe that Russia has yet to achieve air superiority," the official said.

The Russian invasion of Ukraine over the last 24 hours has been observed to occur over three main axes: from the south — including an amphibious assault from the Sea of Azov; from the north central; and from the north-

east, a senior defense official said.

Over the last 24 hours or so, the U.S. has continued to observe more than 250 Russian missile launches, mostly short-range ballistic missiles, the official said.

"We continue to see civilian infrastructure and residential areas impacted and damaged by these missile strikes," the official said, adding that it's not clear if those strikes were intentional.

Altogether, Russia has more than 150,000 troops arrayed against Ukraine, with more than 50% inside the country — up from one-third over the last 24 hours — and the rest are still along the border, the official said. There are also some Russian reconnaissance forces inside Kyiv, Ukraine's capital city.

Also, there are an increasing number of Ukrainians leaving the country, the official said, adding that the lines are stacking up on the Ukrainian side of the border with Poland.

Yesterday, President Joe Biden authorized an additional \$350 million of military assistance from Defense Department inventories — including anti-armor, small arms, various munitions, body armor and related equipment — to support Ukraine's frontline defenders, who are facing down Russia's unprovoked attack, Pentagon Press Secretary John



U.S. Army photo by Master Sgt. Alexander Burnett  
A paratrooper assigned to the Troop B, 5-73 Cavalry, 82nd Airborne Division trains a Polish soldier during a combined training event in Nowa Deba, Poland, Feb. 22, 2022. The 82nd Airborne Division is currently deployed to Poland to train with and operate alongside our Polish allies. The training allows allies to get to know each other's equipment, capabilities and tactics to enhance readiness and strengthen the NATO alliance.

F. Kirby said Saturday.

That brings the total U.S. security assistance approved for Ukraine to \$1 billion over the past year. It's the third time Biden has expedited emergency security assistance for Ukraine's defense in recent months using his presidential authority, Kirby said.

"We, along with our allies and partners, are standing together to continue to expe-

dite security assistance to Ukraine and are employing all available security cooperation tools in support of the Ukrainian people as they defend themselves against this aggression," Kirby said.

"Our commitment and deliveries continue as a sign of our unwavering support for Ukraine sovereignty and territorial integrity," he added.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Catessa Palone  
U.S. Air Force Gen. Tod D. Wolters, commander of the U.S. European Command, greets U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Christopher T. Donahue, commander of the 82nd Airborne Division, in Rzeszow, Poland, Feb. 10, 2022. The 82nd Airborne Division deployed to support the U.S. European Command and assure regional allies and partners and deter any future aggression.



Tennessee National Guard photo by Army Spc. Olivia Gumm  
Soldiers assigned to 5th Battalion, 4th Air Defense Artillery Regiment, line up a military vehicle during exercise Saber Strike 22 at Bemowo Piskie Training Area, Poland, Feb. 25, 2022.





T-1A Jayhawk



T-38C Talon

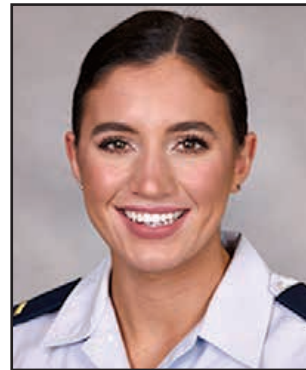
# SUPT Class 22-06 earns silver wings



**Capt. Jimmie Kouns**  
Vero Beach, Florida  
F-16



**Capt. Daniel Trentlage**  
Memphis, Tennessee  
RC-135



**1st Lt. Emilie Braun**  
Reno, Nevada  
KC-135

Twenty-one officers have prevailed during a year of training, earning the right to become Air Force pilots.

Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training Class 22-06 graduates at 10 a.m. today during a ceremony at the Kaye Auditorium.

Students will receive their silver pilot's wings at the ceremony, and students who excelled in their respective training tracks will be recognized.

First Lt. Joseph Santangelo, 2nd Lt. Zachary Dickmann and 2nd Lt. Aaron Youngs received the Air Education and Training Command Commander's Trophy for being the most outstanding students overall in their classes.

The Air Force Association Award was presented to 1st Lt. Joseph Harazim and Youngs who excelled in training and typified the tenets of the association; promoting aerospace power and a strong national defense.

The distinguished graduates of Class 22-06 recognized were Santangelo, Dickmann and Youngs for outstanding performance in academics, officer qualities and flying abilities.

The 52-week pilot training program begins with a six-week preflight phase of academics and physiological training to prepare students for flight. The second phase, primary training, is conducted in the single-engine, turboprop T-6A Texan II at Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi.

Students learn aircraft flight characteristics, emergency procedures, takeoff and landing procedures, aerobatics and formation flying. Students also practice night, instrument and cross country navigation flying.

Primary training takes approximately 23 weeks and includes 254.4 hours of ground training, 27.3 hours in the flight simulator and 89 hours in the T-6A aircraft.

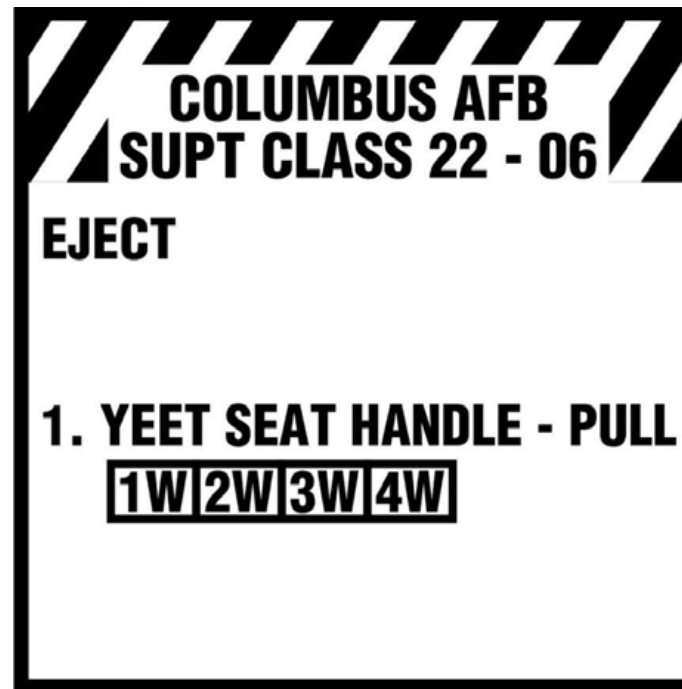
After primary training, students select, by order of merit, advanced training in the fighter-bomber or airlift-tanker track.

Both tracks are designed to best train pilots for successful transition to their follow-on aircraft and mission.

Advanced training for the fighter track is done in the T-38C Talon, a tandem-seat, twin-engine supersonic jet. T-38 training emphasizes formation, advanced aerobatics and navigation. Training takes approximately 26 weeks and includes 381 hours of ground training, 31.6 hours in the flight simulator and 118.7 hours in the T-38C aircraft.

The airlift-tanker track uses the T-1A Jayhawk, the military version of a multi-place Beech Jet 400 business jet. Instruction centers on crew coordination and management, instrument training, cross-country flying and simulated refueling and air-drop missions. Training takes about

26 weeks and includes 185 hours of ground training, 53.6 hours in the flight simulator and 76.4 hours in the T-1A.



**1st Lt. Joseph Harazim**  
Charlotte, North Carolina  
F-16



**1st Lt. Blayne Hayes**  
Friendfield, South Carolina  
C-130J



**1st Lt. Yuma Kumei**  
Osaka, Japan  
UH-60J



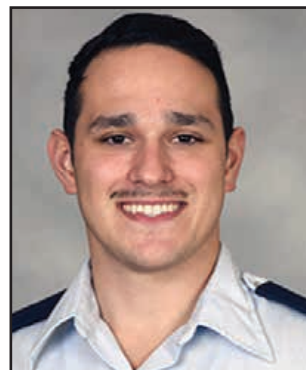
**1st Lt. Nathaniel Kuypers**  
San Diego, California  
B-52



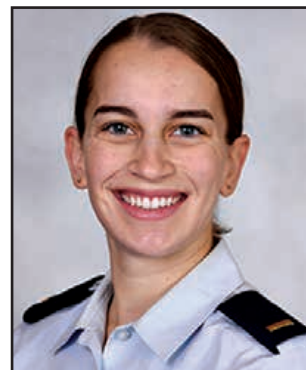
**1st Lt. David La Beur**  
Green Cove Springs, Florida  
B-52



**1st Lt. David Lopez**  
Dayton, Ohio  
E-3



**1st Lt. Joseph Santangelo**  
Fallston, Maryland  
C-22



**1st Lt. Kaitlin Winter**  
Salt Lake City, Utah  
C-17



**2nd Lt. Ivan Desindes**  
Gasden, Alabama  
C-130J



**2nd Lt. Zachary Dickmann**  
Shawano, Wisconsin  
KC-135



**2nd Lt. Brody Jones**  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
E-3



**2nd Lt. James Kirk**  
Ballinger, Texas  
KC-135



**2nd Lt. Soren Larson**  
Manti, Utah  
KC-46



**2nd Lt. William Pelkofer**  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
KC-135



**2nd Lt. Aaron Youngs**  
Indianapolis, Indiana  
T-6A